

THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

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REDWOOD WILDFLOWER PROGRAM—FEBRUARY 11

Our next regular monthly meeting, at the Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, on **Thursday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m.**, will feature a slide talk by Mrs. Charles Young. Known to many as author of *Redwood Empire Wildflower Jewels*, Mrs. Young has spent most of her life hunting wildflowers, discovering exotic species, and protecting nearly extinct plants native to the Redwood Region. She and her photographer husband, Charles, are conservation activists—dedicated to the task of awakening Americans to a plant heritage in danger of loss, and to urging people to help bring back our wonderful wildflowers for enjoyment under proper safeguards. The seven-acre piece of woodland on which the Youngs live, near the coast town of Gualala, has come to be known as "Grandpa Charley's Park." Bring friends to the meeting to see Grandpa Charley's slides!

PLAN TO ATTEND MARCH MEETING—IMPORTANT!

Our **March 11th** meeting will feature a timely slide show on the wildlife of South San Francisco Bay by **William Anderson**, the photographer-conservationist who recently retired from the California Fish and Game Dept. Mr. Anderson will be our guest speaker at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland.

"SCANDINAVIAN SAGA" COMING TO BERKELEY

John Douglas Bulger brings us the fourth of this year's series of Audubon Wildlife Films, "Scandinavian Saga," on **Friday night, February 8**. Among the more than 50 species of animals you will see in this exciting film are puffins, skuas, lemmings, lynx, storks, ruffs, and the immense European bison. In addition to the wildlife, people and places are also featured. You will visit Elsinore Castle and the Tivoli Gardens. The film also includes footage showing the feats of skill that Finns perform on Lumberjack Day and Chimney Sweeps decorating the rooftops of Copenhagen.

The film will be shown in King Junior High School Auditorium-Theater, Rose St. at Grant, Berkeley, at 8:15 p.m. Single admission at the door is \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students under 18. Children under 12 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult or parent.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Another of our fast-vanishing bay-marsh habitats—Strawberry Cove on Richardson Bay—is endangered by plans for a multi-unit, 3½-story residential development. Although the developer's application has been approved by Marin Supervisors, this project has been challenged by the Strawberry Recreation District and by many conservationists in Marin County and elsewhere. Final approval rests with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). Your Board of Directors has asked the BCDC to reject the application in its present form. Their decision will affect other pending high-rise and high-density projects on bay shores. The developer, Paul Broman, has promised to provide certain public access to his shoreline for fishing and other purposes. Although little or no fill is proposed, it is feared that necessary dredging would destroy the unique, fragile ecology of the marsh and cove. Waterfowl, herons, egrets, and other marsh and shore birds have always used this habitat—long a favorite of bird and biology students and groups.

Hunting and shooting on and around Rodeo Lagoon in the Fort Cronkite reservation was protested by your Board of Directors, and by the Sierra Club, to the Commanding Officer of the 6th District, U. S. Army. Bird students as well as birds use this lagoon constantly, and it is expected to become part of the Golden Gate Headlands State Park. Our letter of protest, written on Dec. 17, elicited a reply written on Jan. 4, 1971. It reads, in part: "*As you probably know* (*italics added*), the Commanding General, Sixth U. S. Army, declared a moratorium on the shooting at this location on 24 December 1970. His decision in this matter will govern future hunting in that area."

The opening of San Pablo and other EBMUD reservoirs to boating and fishing will pose problems for the Canada Geese and other waterfowl that inhabit them in fall and winter. We must get assurances from EBMUD that these birds will be protected.

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Sun. Feb. 7—A short trip, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Lake Merced in San Francisco. Meet at the big parking area north of the lake, easily reached via Sunset Blvd. Lunch optional.

Sun. Feb. 14—Come to Thornton to see the Sandhill Cranes and Whistling Swans. Drive to Fairfield (Antioch Bridge is still closed), and continue on Highway 12 to Rio Vista. From there turn left onto 160 and go to Walnut Grove; follow signs to Thornton. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Four Corners Cafe, intersection of Blossom and Walnut Grove Roads. We will caravan by way of Blossom, Peltier, and Woodbridge Roads. Bring lunch, warm clothes, and interested friends. Leader, Paul Covell.

Wed. Feb. 17—Coyote Hills Regional Park, followed by a side trip to Dumbarton Bridge if time allows. From Nimitz Freeway, take the Jarvis Avenue exit, drive west on Jarvis to Newark Blvd. (first signal light), and turn right. Drive for about one mile and then turn left onto Patterson

Ranch Road at the Stanford Research Institute sign. Meet at the big parking lot at **9 a.m.** Leader, Mrs. Herbert Boese (339-8374).

Sat. Feb. 20—Grizzly and Joice Islands in Solano County. Drive to Fairfield via Highway 80. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the parking lot in Fairfield City Park on West Texas Street. Bring lunch and warm clothing. Leader, Warren Larson (525-9149).

Sat. Feb. 27—A return trip to Point Reyes Peninsula. We will bird at Drake's Estuary, RCA Station, Drake's Beach, and the Point Reyes Lighthouse. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Inverness Store in the town of Inverness. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Leader, Jack Mann (352-1965).

Dates to save for return visits: **Mar. 6**, Tubbs Island; **Mar 20**, Bodega Bay; **April 10**, Sunol; **April 24**, McCoy Ranch.—PATRICIA TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*.

DECEMBER FIELD OBSERVATIONS

European Widgeon—in Pond 2 of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Dec. 23—Garth Alton.

Barrow's Goldeneye—4 drakes on Lake Merritt in December.

Oldsquaw—at Berkeley's Aquatic Park and Marina, Dec. 5-27, photographed by Jim Clayton, Dick Johnson, Whitey Whitehead.

Harlequin Duck—drake on Richardson Bay reported Dec. 14 by Mrs. Alan Margolis et al. Observed again Dec. 16 by Bud Fry and Bill Pursell. On Dec. 28 Bill Pursell found a female Harlequin near Belvedere.

Hooded Merganser—on the narrow finger of Lake Merritt between the western edge of Lakeside Park and Lakeside Drive, Dec. 19—Mr. and Mrs. Steve Whitney.

Common Merganser—5 on Lafayette Reservoir Dec. 18, and 4 on Dec. 29.

Peregrine Falcon—at Bodega Bay Dec. 6—Bill Pursell.

2 *Sora* and 11 *Clapper Rails*—emerged from salt marsh during high tides at Alameda South Shore in December. On Dec. 29 a Clapper Rail perched on a backyard fence near Broadway and Shoreline Drive, Alameda—Elsie Roemer.

Black-legged Kittiwake—perched on a piling at Berkeley's Aquatic Park after storm Dec. 6—Dick Johnson. On Dec. 8 Larry Curl and Jim Clayton found a Black-legged Kittiwake at Limantour Spit, Pt. Reyes Seashore.

White-throated Swift—2 over Alameda South Shore Dec. 19—Elsie Roemer and Bud Fry. Three on Dec. 20 in same area—Thaire Adamson.

Dipper—observed again on Alameda Creek in Sunol Valley Regional Park Dec. 5—Roy and Fran Nelson. Dipper on Penitencia Creek near upper picnic area of Alum Rock Park, San Jose, Dec. 27.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Immature male in Mrs. Ann Follis' garden in San Francisco Dec. 5-15.

Slate-colored Junco—on Homems' feeder in Montclair hills, Oakland, Dec. 11-15. (This species was there last winter from Dec. 1, 1969 through March 23, 1970.) During the last two weeks of December a Slate-colored Junco visited Adah Pride's feeder in Montclair.

White-throated Sparrow—on Mrs. Ann Follis' feeder in San Francisco during third week of December.

January 10-12 A CALIFORNIA CONDOR near Alpine Rd. and Freeway 280, West of Stanford University, Palo Alto—Dave DeSante et al.

EARLY NEWS ON THE OAKLAND COUNT

About 100 participants (including Dr. Boles' Boy Scouts) turned out on a chilly January 3rd for the Oakland Bird Count. At the time this was written the tentative total stood at 170 species seen (or heard) on the count day, plus nine additional species seen during the count period.

Here are some of the highlights of the count: a flock of 26 Whistling Swans seen flying South in the morning (in Albany) and a flock of 26 (plus one Snow Goose) seen flying North in the afternoon (in Oakland); a record high of 16 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Lake Merritt; an Oldsquaw at Aquatic Park; two Hooded Mergansers (female at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, and male at Lake Merritt); a pair of Golden Eagles at Upper San Leandro Reservoir; an adult Pigeon Hawk at Jewel Lake (found by Scott Terrill—bird still there Jan. 6); a first-year Glaucous Gull at the foot of Davis Street, San Leandro (dump area); an immature Black-legged Kittiwake on Bay Farm Island fill; a Western Flycatcher in Strawberry Canyon, U. C. Botanical Garden; a Canyon Wren in Big Springs Trail area, Tilden Park (Scott Terrill); a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Lafayette Reservoir (Tom Schulenberg); Red Crossbills, heard by Marie Mans in Redwood Regional Park; and a White-throated Sparrow at Dr. Max Gardner's feeder in Berkeley.

Thanks are due to Count Compiler Eugene Hunn for his splendid organization of count parties within the circle, as well as for the work that remained to be done after the count; to Ed Jepsen, who arranged for the use of Bob Howell's boat for the count of waterfowl; to Bob Howell for letting us use his boat; to the Fallgatter's for a place to meet and eat after the count; to Maude Ericson for the food; and to the many non-member volunteers and members of other chapters who helped out. A full count report will appear in the March issue of *The Gull*.

A PHENOMENON FOR EAST BAY BIRDERS

Another "Year of the Birds," at least for the berry-seekers, has brought back incredible masses of robins to Palo Seco Canyon in the Oakland hills. With the cooperation of Skyline residents and other counters, I came up with a total estimate of 450,000 robins flying over at sundown on January 1, 1969. These were the Contra Costa robins, which return each evening from still-unlocated parts of Contra Costa County—or perhaps

from even more-distant areas—to settle down in the overnight roost in Palo Seco Canyon.

This winter an estimated 100,000 or more birds were seen at census time, and it is hoped that they may be viewed well into this month. I think you will find watching this “sky-full of robins” a wondrous experience, like a brilliant sunset or a star-gazing session. In spite of all we’ve learned about bird migration, this daily return of such vast numbers of birds to roost in one spot poses many unanswered questions. Is it only the result of instinct and learned behavior, or is it also to satisfy a need for social contacts and mutual protection?

This robin spectacle may be seen best from the head of the Tres Cendas Trail in Redwood Regional Park at a point on Skyline Blvd. opposite Totterdell Road—about midway between the Roberts Area and the prominent Skyline Gate entrance to Redwood Regional. I advise going there shortly after 5 p.m. On another evening visit the Robin Roost—a posted hilltop in Joaquin Miller Park just west of the ranger station—to overlook the canyon roost. Or, go there for the dawn chorus and dispersal of the birds.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING

Audubon Nature Training starts the New Year with more than 1,000 graduates and nine instructors. Spring classes begin this month. Five courses in “Adventures in Urban Ecology for Elementary School Teachers” are offered, all with the same program content. These series will begin on different dates at different locations—Berkeley, Moraga, Martinez, Kensington, and one other still undecided at press time. Another five courses, all to be given in Berkeley, will be offered in “Adventures in Urban Ecology for Group Leaders.” The first series starts February 10. “Adventures in Urban Ecology for Preschool Personnel and Parents of Preschoolers” will be presented at Aquatic Park and St. John’s Church. A supplementary workshop series will emphasize techniques. A special series is also planned for day camp and summer camp counselors and for community resource volunteers. For further information, telephone 549-1038, or write to Audubon Nature Training, 1749 Grove Street, Berkeley 94709.

DELTA AGENCY RESOLUTION ON PERIPHERAL CANAL

Encouraging news came in mid-December of last year in an announcement by Congressman Jerome R. Waldie of Contra Costa, who claimed that the Peripheral Canal, “the heart of the water project,” had been dealt a “heavy blow” by the Delta Water Agency, which was created by the State Department of Water Resources to “protect and study the water resources of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” The agency adopted a resolution stating that “this agency is unequivocally opposed to the proposed Peripheral Canal.” Two months earlier, delegates to the Bay Area Council (BAAC) passed a unanimous motion stating that it is “opposed to the construction and operation of the Sacramento-Delta Per-

ipheral Canal until such time as it is positively established that there will be no further degradation of the San Francisco Bay and Delta."

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Members of G.G.A.S. are urged to attend two meetings organized by the College Women's Club (Berkeley Branch of the A.A.U.W.) for the series entitled "Environmental Forum." The topic of the **Feb. 11** meeting is "Government Agencies' Conservation Practices." Panelists will be Col. Frank Burger, Corps of Engineers, Contra Costa Co. Consultant for Studies on Water Quality and the **Baldwin Ship Channel**; Edward Dolder, Office of Planning and Policy; Mrs. Geraldine Larson, U.S. Forest Service; John Plumb, Secty., EBMUD; and a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency. Audience participation is encouraged, and reference materials will be available. On **Feb. 25** another panel will discuss "Environmental Action Programs." For further details call Sylvia McLaughlin, Series Coordinator, at 848-0699.

NEW BOARD DIRECTOR

Mrs. Donald H. (Sylvia) McLaughlin has replaced Mrs. Edmond S. (Ann) Gillette, Jr. as a Director of our Chapter board and of the Board of the National Audubon Society.

From September 1968 to December 1970 Ann Gillette served actively and ably as a member of our GGAS board and kept us abreast of what was happening within the realm of National Audubon, which in times past often seemed rather remote. During her six years as the only representative on the National board from the West, she accomplished many things—not only for GGAS but for all Western Chapters. As a result of her efforts, the National Audubon Society has come to realize that not only are Western Chapters active and organized, but that we, too, are faced with serious environmental problems. Consequently, several National Conferences have been held in the West in recent years. Among Ann's other major accomplishments were the establishment of our new Western Regional Office in Sacramento (which, incidentally, has won an award for its architectural excellence) and the addition of two more Directors to the National board who will represent the West. We owe her a large debt of gratitude.

Sylvia McLaughlin is well known as one of the founders of the Save San Francisco Bay Association and is active in several other conservation organizations as well—at the grass roots level. We are fortunate indeed to have her with us; we welcome her and look to her for great things.

AUDUBON AFRICAN SAFARI WORKSHOP

Last fall, National Audubon began planning an Audubon African Safari Workshop for 1971. Tour Leader J. Stanley Quickmire writes that 85 persons of the 120 total needed to make the trip materialize have al-

ready signed up. The Audubon staff will consist of Roland C. Clement, Stanley Quickmire, Allen Cruickshank, and five other able leaders. Among the several notable people invited to speak on various topics will be L. S. B. Leakey, who, in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, found the bones of the earliest-known tool-using human ancestors. A brochure giving details in full may be obtained by writing to the Safari organizer—Cahill-Laughlin Tours, Inc., 655 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021. Plans call for a repeat trip in 1972, but there is still time to sign up for 1971.

SPECIAL OBITUARY

The sudden passing of Alice Leet of Berkeley on December 24 represented a real loss to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Alice served many years as Distribution Chairman and before that as Corresponding Secretary. The many other ways in which she served the Society in her cheerful, unstinting manner could never be recorded or be described in full. Aside from her contributions of time and energy to Audubon, Alice Leet enjoyed a distinguished career as a dietician and child-care expert. As a GGAS past-president, I shall never forget the instant response and prodigious efforts that Alice gave on so many occasions in getting out *The Gull* and other mailings—all with deadlines. I hope that her example may be followed by others who have the time and talents to give to Audubon. In the eulogy he delivered at the memorial service for Alice, the Reverend Brown Barr remembered her

*For a touch of daphne brought from springtime's first fragrance
For errands of love in a faithful and familiar car
For years of practical labor and concern about food and health
and the future of little children
For restless energy always pressing for another's good
For the gift of companionship on rainy days and through the
summer wood
For the listening ears which heard in nature's song the music of
the spheres.*
—Paul F. Covel.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift of remembrance was made to **Audubon Nature Training:**

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Mr. Orra Crosby Hyde, Jr.	Kaiser Center, Inc.

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Canyon Ranch:**

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Dr. George E. Nesche	Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles
Kenneth F. Worley	Margaret Macormack

Special gifts were made to **Audubon Canyon Ranch** by Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Bucher in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Bucher and by Lolita Peterson in honor of Mrs. Myra Browne.—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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THE GULL

February

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495
Vice President	Mrs. Richard Johnson	1127 El Centro Ave. Oakland 94602	533-7118
Vice President	George Peyton, Jr.	4304 Adelaide, Oakland 94619	531-5588
Treasurer	Edward Ormondroyd	2736 Russell St., Berkeley 94705	549-1385
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Jane Dang	1292 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley 94708	848-0253
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Raymond Higgs	340 Esplanade No. 20, Pacifica 94044	355-6264
Director	Robert E. Conrath	1980 Washington St., San Francisco 94118	776-1418
Director	Mrs. Leonard Machlis	1871 Thousand Oaks Bl., Berkeley 94707	525-8473
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Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco 94132	587-4163
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco 94123	673-5310
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Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covell	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC)

Delegates: Joshua Barkin, George Peyton, Jr., Mrs. Richard F. Johnson (addresses above)

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.